

Downtown Providence District Management Authority

Operations Committee Meeting

4PM September 22, 2005 40 Fountain St., Providence RI

In attendance were Robert Gagliardi, chairing the meeting, Mike Corso, Joe DiBattista, Richard Lappin, John MacIver, Dan Baudouin and Frank LaTorre

Recap of the meeting with Mayor David Cicilline

On September 8, 2005 a delegation from the Downtown Improvement District went to meet with Mayor Cicilline to discuss areas of progress and areas where work is still need to be made in coordinating efforts between the DID and the City to create a clean and safe downtown. (See 9/22 Operations Committee agenda packet for handouts that were given to the Mayor and the Director of Operations, Carol Grant.) The Operations Committee discussed the fact that our recommendation for the Mayor to form two committees to work with the DID on coordinating clean and safe issues, would now be condensed to a recommendation to form one committee to discuss very specific operations issues such as the number of trash barrels on the street, who will pick up the trash, park clean-up and maintenance, snow removal enforcement, etc. The idea is have this one committee, with top administration from the Director of Operations office, Public Works, Parks and the DID implement action

points that will transition the City from providing five-day/week services to recognizing this is now a seven day/week city that needs weekend services as well. Other committees to discuss the late night environment, Kennedy Plaza, tree planting, sidewalk repair and the traffic circulation system are in existence or being formed.

Update on trash receptacle purchase

Frank LaTorre, Director of Public Space, reported on the 30 trash cans that are going to be purchased from The Steelyard as per a vote of the Board of Directors on September 8, 2005. (See 9/22 Operations Committee agenda packet for handouts showing the project scope, prices and style of the receptacles.) There was a discussion that some DID Board members wanted to make certain that the receptacles produced by The Steelyard were sturdy, dependable and could withstand our New England winters. As such, Mr. LaTorre has contacted, as suggested by Stanley Weiss, Luke Mandle, a principal with Twoton, Inc. Mr. Mandle is working with Howie Sneider, the production manager for the Steelyard, and to provide him input with standards to make certain this is a durable, functional receptacle. Chairman Granoff had noted at the September 8 Board meeting that the issue of steel vs. aluminum was important to research with the bottom line being the receptacles do not rust easily. Mr. LaTorre will work with Mr. Mandle and Mr. Sneider to get the steel cans “powder coated” which is an extra protection against rust recommended by Mr. Mandle. The committee instructed Mr. LaTorre to order the receptacles, aware that issues still need to be resolved with the City

regarding who will pick up the trash, where the trash that is picked up will be stored and who will haul away the trash to the waste facility. Frank LaTorre and Frank Zammarelli will identify the 30 locations in the District presently most in need of the receptacles

Proposed snow removal plan for the winter of 2005-06

(See Operations Committee agenda packet of 9/22 for the full scope of the implementation strategy.) The Operation Committee gave the Director of Public Space direction not to offer property owners the choice of hiring private contracted services with either Block-by-Block or a local snow removal contractor. The sense of the committee, as expressed by Chairman Gagliardi, was that to do this properly would require so much administrative time from the staff and because at best it would be a patch-work quilt that could prove very inefficient from a private contractors perspective that it was best to put DID efforts elsewhere. As such, information letters will be sent to the property owners urging them to comply with the ordinances in existence, a copy of which will be provided (which DID will try to get strengthened). If we can get the Police with the Administration's backing to enforce existing laws, and property owners are aware of the ordinances and that enforcement is coming, there will be a discernable difference in the snow situation in the District this year.

Operations Committee

Mr. LaTorre will meet with surface lot owners to explain the situation. Working together with the police it must be made clear we cannot have huge piles of snow plowed onto sidewalks or alleys and keep the city safe for pedestrian and traffic alike.

Committee to coordinate sidewalk repair and the traffic circulation system

There has been agreement, at the suggestion of the DID, to form a committee that will include representative of Planning, Public Works the State and the DID to coordinate work to make certain the downtown will be getting it's fair share of the moneys allocated in the Federal and State funds now available and that the implementation of those funds will be done in a cost-effective coordinated manner. The first meeting of the committee will be next month.

Committee formed by City Forester to address downtown plantings and maintenance

See Operations Committee agenda packet 9/22 for the full list of Doug Still's – the new City Forester- plans to address the need for more trees and the maintenance of present tree in the District. This includes a full inventory of what exists and forming a standardized tree well design that will be implemented District-wide.

Other business

Spec will be developed regarding the construction of community bulletin board/informational kiosks in the District. Once basic specs are developed and possible locations identified, Mike Corso would like to sponsor a competition for the best design. Then there will be a process to price out the cost of the kiosks and obtain funding for them. The Director of Public Space will be working with interested committee members to bring this to fruition.